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Introductory Sight-Singing Melodies. By E. W. NEWTON. Boston: Ginn & Co.

This little book of forty-two pages contains exercises and short songs for use in the earlier grades. The exercises are graded much as usual and present no striking feature. The novelty and worth of the book lie in the exercise songs which form a welcome contribution to the musical literature for primary work.

Since the value of the school song is primarily cultural, its choice should not be restricted by the technical problems its presents, and to tear apart a lovely and beloved rote-song to find a phrase suitable for notation and reading, is often to rob it of its charm. Few of the primary songs given as sight-reading material possess enough musical worth to render them worthy of laborious study, while drill on barren exercises degenerates into drudgery. Wide-awake teachers, therefore, have been searching for suitable material apart from the fine rote song, and have been using devices of alteration and composition—both usually dangerous—to meet the need. In this little volume appears a generous supply of the very material desired. The songs show an experienced touch and are set to sensible and charming texts. They are four or eight measures in length, are carefully phrased, and run through the nine common keys. A few are so written that two melodies with the same text may be sung together, forming a two-part song suitable for use in third-grade work. Problems of $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{4}{4}$, and $\frac{3}{8}$ measure are taken up and consecutive or frequent intervals used. Further enhanced by a good piano accompaniment, these tiny songs should delight the children.

M. R. K.

Larger Types of American Geography. By CHARLES A. McMURRY, PH.D. The Macmillan Company, 1907. Pp. vii+271. \$0.75 net.

This is the third of a series of geographical readers, and is intended for children of the seventh and eighth grades. Eight important geographical types are presented: the Appalachian Mountains, the Rocky Mountains, the Pennsylvania Railroad, the first Pacific railroad, the Mississippi River, the iron and steel business, cotton mills and cotton manufacture, and New York City.

The purpose is to show, in a simple way, the causal relation between physical and industrial and social conditions. The treatment of each topic is careful and scientific; the chapters are interesting and suggestive; and as a supplementary reader, the book ought to be of the greatest help in giving to children something of the spirit and meaning of geography.

H. G.

From Trail to Railway Through the Appalachians. By ALBERT PERRY BRIGHAM, A.M. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1907. Pp. 188. \$0.50.

To understand and appreciate the changes that have taken place since the buffalo traces and Indian trails were the only paths by which to travel toward the west, is to understand the best part of American history. *From Trail to Railway* makes their appreciation possible for boys of the seventh and eighth grades.

The maps are excellent, showing the topography clearly. The pictures are well chosen. Of special interest are the chapters on "The Erie Canal," "The National Road," "The Great Valley," and "To Kentucky by Cumberland Gap."

M. L.